THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

■ NATIONAL
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker shares parliamentary experiences
▶ PAGE 3

■ LOCAL BUSINESS
Oil and gas sector attracts $22.4 billion in FDI
▶ PAGE 4

■ NATIONAL
Security forces defuse bomb in Kutkai
▶ PAGE 3

Vol. III, No. 268, 12th Waxing of Pyatho 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Monday, 9 January 2017

Vice President U Myint Swe opens Taungup Degree College

Vice President U Myint Swe (second from left), inspects a lecture room at Taungup Degree College in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe formally opened Taungup Degree College in Rakhine State yesterday morning, which will create opportunities for students who want to continue their education in Gwa, Thandwe, Yanbye, Myanaung, Kyaukpyu, An and Taungup.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha and Principal of the college Dr Win Naing formally opened the archway of the college.

The Vice President then posed for documentary photos with the guests. Afterwards, the Vice President sprinkled scented water on the signboard of the college before delivering a speech.

The Vice President said he was happy to attend the ceremony to upgrade Taungup College into a degree-granting institution for the continued development of Rakhine State. In the past, those seeking higher education in Rakhine State had to depend entirely on Sittway College, located nine hours south by bus. Local students faced difficulties in terms of money and transportation as the state is divided by rivers, streams and mountain ranges.

To ease the difficulties, Taungup College was opened in 2012 thanks to the efforts of residents in Tuangup, said the Vice President before adding that it is necessary to improve education standards not only in southern Rakhine State but also in the entire union.

The Vice President expressed his pleasure to learn that about 7,000 students, including over 1,600 students studying in regular courses and some 5,000 students who are studying by distance education, are studying without any financial and transportation difficulties. The degree college has opened seven departments for students.

The Vice President warned that the degree college, which has been in existence for only five years, has many challenges to overcome and urged faculty members, students and town elders to solve problems in cooperation before saying that regional development depends on the development of the education sector, which is made up of teachers and students.

Later, the Vice President pointed out that students and teachers are required to exert efforts for implementation of educational goals and measures in accordance with the times.

In conclusion, the Vice President said that faculty members and students of the degree college will contribute to the development of Rakhine State.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu made speeches before town elder U Kyauk Taung and the principal of the degree college expressed their thanks.

After the ceremony, the Vice President and party toured the college's laboratories, language labs and hostels.

The Vice President arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening via Thandwe.

— *Myanmar News Agency*

Government, UN agencies, int'l aid orgs discuss humanitarian aid in northern Rakhine

THE government is optimistic about the current cooperation with the UN and INGOs in providing humanitarian aid to the areas affected by the violent attacks in October and November, hoping that the international aid groups would clarify the genuine situation in the conflict areas to refute the alleged abuses.

"Currently we are leading to regional development through the humanitarian aid and that would be helpful for the local people to stand on their own two feet for their livelihood," said Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The remarks came following a meeting by the government mission led by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye with UN agencies and INGOs over the current challenges of aid organisations in northern Rakhine yesterday.

The meeting was held after the Union Minister's two-day trip to villages affected by the violent attacks in October and November.

At the meeting held at the Maungtaw General Administration Office yesterday, the two sides discussed further cooperation in providing humanitarian aid to the conflict areas and contributions to regional development.

SEE PAGE 3 >>

Government investigates attacks on Myanmar workers in Malaysia

AS they left overtime work at the factory of Elecol Switchgear in Serdang, Myanmar workers were brutally attacked with swords by four masked assailants on Thursday. As a result of the attack, four Myanmar workers were killed and another two seriously injured.

The injured were receiving treatment at a local hospital as officials of the Myanmar embassy, the labour attaché, the Military attaché and the Panalinka Philanthropic Organisation went to the factory and visited the hospital to seek information and possible compensation, according to Director-General U Sein Oo of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department.

The attackers arrived at the scene with two cars and motorbikes and attacked the Myanmar workers with swords, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung of the Immigration and Population Ministry confirmed.

"As soon as the attack occurred, the first secretary of the Myanmar Embassy, officials of the labour attaché and one official of the military attaché in Malaysia went to the factory and discussed what they could do about the attack, before going to the police station and the hospital. Seven people were in police custody for questioning. The police are still investigating the case," he said.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung of the Immigration and Population Ministry.

Spokesman of Myanmar President Office Acting Director-General U Zaw Htay.

Director-General U Sein Oo of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department .

"Officials of the Myanmar embassy, the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the labour attaché have launched an investigation into the attack on Myanmar workers in cooperation with Malaysian authorities."

He added that seven Myanmar workers were not arrested but were kept in police custody for questioning. It is also too early to say that the attack is related to Rakhine State, he said.

Thirty Myanmar employees, fifteen of whom were official and the rest undocumented, were working at the factory at the time of the attack. Official as well as illegal workers were assaulted during the attacks.

Overseas employment agencies that sent the official workers were instructed to help the attacked workers and arrangements have also been made with Malaysia Employers Federation. Officials of the embassy and the labour attaché are working for the illegal workers to enjoy the same rights as the official workers, according to U Myo Aung.

"Officials of Myanmar embassy, the Ministry of Immigration and Population and labour attaché have been launching an investigation into the attack on Myanmar workers in cooperation with Malaysian authorities," the spokesman for the Myanmar President's Office Acting Director-General U Zaw Htay said.

He added that the Ministry of Immigration and Population has stopped sending workers to Malaysia as there was a wide perception that if something happens in Myanmar, a response followed in Malaysia.

In conclusion, he said that instructions have been issued for Myanmar workers in Malaysia for their safety and urged illegal Myanmar workers in Malaysia to contact the embassy there. —*Nyi Nyi Tun, Myo Myint, Kyaw Thu Htet (Myanmar News Agency)*

Government troops skirmish with TNLA

Weapons and ammunitions seized from TNLM group are seen. PHOTO: MNA

WHILE conducting security operations in Kutkai, notrthern Shan State, columns of government troops came under heavy weapons fire from about 30 members of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) about one mile from Honaung Village. Government troops exchanged fire until the insurgents retreated to the south yesterday morning.

The government troops pursued the armed groups, which still fired heavy weapons as they retreated further south.

During the incident, the government troops seized one cartridge for an AK-47, 30 rounds of ammunition, six rockets, four backpacks, two guerilla uniforms, two badges of the TNLA and other accessories.—*Myanmar News Agency*

POEM:

Through Meditation

* Through meditation,
a poet may not gain concentration
since his big heart is full of feelings,
and his small head is full of thoughts,
but meditation gives no room
for feelings nor for thoughts.

* During meditation,
his feelings surge like the sea,
his thoughts flit and fly
like the meteors in the night sky;
he is here, but his mind is not here.
It is not through meditation,
but through the absorbing task of writing poetry,
a poet can gain concentration.

Zaw Tun

Book shops at the Saturday-Sunday Yangon Books Stree are crowded with visitors on Sunday. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker shares parliamentary experiences with regional lawmakers

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint met with lawmakers of the Taninthayi Region Parliament yesterday, calling on them to coordinate and cooperate with each other in order to bring better stability and the rule of law to the region.

Speaking on the occasion in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, the Speaker urged the lawmakers to carry out regional development tasks in their respective constituencies at a time when the parliament adjourns in coordination with authorities in order not to exceed the constitutional limits.

The three pillars of government — legislative, executive and judiciary — have checks and balances over each other to maintain the equilibrium of power but not to interfere in each other, said the Speaker, urging the lawmakers to strive to make the machinery parliament stronger.

Myanmar is in transition to democracy and to build a democratic country, MPs are to cooperate with each other with magnanimity, tolerance, forgiveness and mutual understanding in the best interest of the country and its people, he added.

He also urged the lawmakers to be mindful not to become law-breaking lawmakers, stressing the importance of practicing the checks-and-balances in accordance with the constitution and existing law and by-laws.

The MPs at the meeting and the Speaker discussed regional development tasks and measures undertaken in the parliament.

Present at the meeting were Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw U Khin Maung Aye, Vice Speaker U Kyi Soe, MPs from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and from Taninthayi Region Parliament. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attends meeting on republishing of Myanma Encyclopedias

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses at a coordination meeting on the republishing of Myanma Encyclopedias by the Ministry of Information and the Tun Foundation. PHOTO: MNA

A coordination meeting on the joint republishing of Myanma Encyclopedias by the Ministry of Information and the Tun Foundation was held at the Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon yesterday, with an address by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. Director-General U Aung Myo Myint of the PPD reported on measures taken for republishing of the encyclopedias.

Chairman of the Tun Foundation U Thein Tun, Advisor for republishing of the encyclopedias U Thaw Kaung, Chief Editor of Sarpay Beikman U Aung Than, Chief Editor U Myint Thu of Myanmar Heritage Publications and doyen literati participated in the discussions.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the union minister.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Government, UN agencies, int'l orgs discuss humanitarian aid

>> FROM PAGE 1

The Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister, who was with the Union minister at the meeting, also clarified the security affairs in the state.

"The UN and the INGOs also understand that just providing humanitarian aid can not lead to development in the region," said the Union Minister.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Japanese aid group BAJ, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Care, the World Food Programme (WFP), Malteser and Community and Family Services International (CFSI). The government mission led by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye delivered aid to 25 villagers in northern Rakhine during two days of their trip. — *Zin Oo*

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, fifth from left) delivers aid to villagers on his visit to the villagers in northern Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7pm on Sunday 8th January, 2017)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. It is forecast to further intensify into a depression during next 48 hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 9th January, 2017: Rain will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Mon State, isolated in Yangon Region and Kayin State. Degree of certainty is 80 per cent. Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyarwady Regions, Chin and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon - Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th January, 2017: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th January, 2017: Partly cloudy.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th January, 2017: Generally fair weather.

Security forces defuse bomb in Kutkai

SECURITY forces had to defuse an improvised bomb found in a house in Ward-5 in Kutkai on Saturday.

Acting on a report that an improvised bomb was found at the house of Daw Mar Mon in Ward-5 in Kutkai in northern Shan State, government troops and police had to defuse the device that was attached to a box of about 4,000 small metal balls, two electric detonators, one wire, one plug and gunpowder. The bomb was found in a trash heap by the side of Kutkai-Theinni Road by one of the tenants, who thought that it was a battery, near the house of Daw Mar Mon. —*Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

A view shows the Myanmar industrial port terminal at the banks of the Hlaing river in Yangon, on 9 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar citizen investment reaches over Ks12,366 billion as of last December

THE amount of Myanmar citizen investment of permitted enterprises as of last December reached Ks12,366.630 billion in total, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

About 18.96 per cent of total civilian investment came from the manufacturing sector, followed by the transport sector with 18.08 per cent, real estate development with 17.90 per cent, hotel and tourism with 10.93 per cent, construction with 7.63 per cent, industrial estate with 4.65 per cent, power with 3.69 per cent, mining with 1.12 per cent, livestock and fisheries with 0.54 per cent, agriculture with 0.41 per cent and others with 16.09 per cent.

The Myanmar Investment Commission granted a total of 1,224 business projects in 11 sectors.

The country's production industry received over Ks2,344 billion in investments. The transport and property industry are listed in the top three with investments of Ks2,235.982 billion and Ks2,214.064 billion, respectively.

The citizen investment in 11 sectors in the last fiscal year hit over Ks11,624 billion, according to the DICA.—*Khine Wah*

Hotel's recycled soap to go to charity

RECYCLING soaps produced by Sule Shangri-La Hotel will go for a charity under the Soap for Hope programme with the aim of enabling hygiene by providing access to soap to people in need, said Daw Ma Ma Naing, director of human resources of the hotel.

With the technical support of Sundara, about 50 members of hotel staff participated in the production process to salvage the hotel's half-used soap slivers and turn them into new soaps, with the organizer planning to offer those recycling soaps to Panita Rama monastic education school in Insein Township in Yangon.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

This is the second time the hotel manufactured reprocessing soaps for charity.

Daw Htar Htar, programme director of Sundara, said the Soap for Hope programme started in Myanmar two years ago to reduce the prevalence of hygiene-related diseases through simple hand washing, distributing recycled soaps to communities that have no access to soap.

Helping hotels reduce waste by turning used soap into something useful again is one of the core objectives of the programme.

Redistributing the unused sanitation products from hotels can save lives around the world.

According to a global survey, over 7 million children die each year from diseases that can be prevented with simple hand washing. And every year, a typical 400-room hotel generates 3.5 tons of solid soap waste.

Daw Ma Ma Naing said the hotel could manufacture over 1,000 solid soaps from the 78 kilograms of soap waste produced from the hotel. —*Aung Thura*

Oil and gas sector attracts $22.4 billion in FDI

THE OIL and gas sector attracted $22.4 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) of permitted enterprises as of December last year, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The Oil and gas sector remains first with 33.33 per cent of total FDI while the power sector is the next highest with 30.18 per cent, followed by manufacturing with 11.11 per cent, transport and communications with 9.99 per cent, real estate with 4.72 per cent, mining with 4.31 per cent, hotel and tourism with 3.78 per cent, livestock and fisheries with 0.81 per cent, agriculture with 0.37 per cent, industrial estate with 0.30 per cent, construction with 0.06 per cent and others with 1.05 per cent.

The DICA figures indicate that the power sector attracted $20.290 billion in FDI, while $7.468 billion in FDI came to the manufacturing industry, $6.714 billion to transport and communication, $3.171 billion to real estate, $2.897 billion to mining, $2.543 billion to hotel and tourism, $547 million to livestock and fisheries, $249 million to agriculture, $203 million to industrial estate, $37 million to construction and $705 million to other services. According to DICA, foreign investment into 1,189 projects in 12 sectors reached $67.240 billion.—*Kyaw Swa*

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Import value declines by $800 million over past nine months

THE total import value over the past nine months of his fiscal year hit over US$11.5 billion, a decrease of more than $800 million compared with the same time last fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

From 1 April to 30 December of last year, the country imported $4.646 billion worth capital goods, $4.074 billion worth of industrial raw materials and $2.806 billion worth of personal goods.

The government sector bought capital goods, raw materials and personal goods that amounted to $363.319 million from international trade partners while the private sector imported $11.13 billion worth of products.

The import value over the first nine months of last fiscal year totalled $12.368 billion, including $2.053 billion from the government sector and $10.314 billion from the private sector.

Myanmar normally imports personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff, electronic devices and luxury products.

In the first nine months of this fiscal year, the country exported $8.298 billion worth products including mineral, fisheries, animals and agriculture products.—*Shwe Khine*

Modi thanks Indians living abroad for supporting govt's move against graft

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday thanked non-resident Indians for supporting the government's demonetisation move to curb corruption and black money as well as for their "invaluable contribution to the country's economy."

"Corruption and black money have been corroding our system from within. India needed to take a stand and so we have," Modi said at the Pravasi Bharati Divas, the largest gathering of Indians living abroad, in the southern city of Bengaluru.

The prime minister added: "We will no longer have any space for corruption and black money to exist. Our diaspora has supported the government's moves against corruption and black money, and I thank you all for your support." Modi had in November last year suddenly announced the scrapping of higher denomination currency notes to curb the menace of black money as well as the circulation of fake notes.

In his address to the non-resident Indians, Modi also said that "the Indian diaspora represents the best of Indian culture, ethos and values" and "For those workers who seek economic opportunities abroad, our effort is to provide maximum facilitation and ensure least inconvenience."

"Remittance of close to 69 billion dollars annually by overseas Indians makes an invaluable contribution to the Indian economy. We want to turn brain-drain into brain-gain and your support in this is very important," he added.—*Xinhua*

Japan's ambassador to S Korea to return home Monday: source

SEOUL — Japan's Ambassador to South Korea Yasumasa Nagamine will return home temporarily Monday in protest against the erection of a new statue in Busan dedicated to women forced to work in Japan's wartime brothels, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

The ambassador will come back to Japan for about a week, less than the 12 days for which former ambassador Masatoshi Muto returned in 2012 as part of Tokyo's protest against then South Korean President Lee Myun Bak's visit to disputed isles in the Sea of Japan, according to a source close to bilateral relations.

"The issue of the installation of the statue is not as serious as the visit" by Lee, the source said.

The latest statue dispute comes despite a bilateral agreement in December 2015 aimed at fully settling the issue of women procured for the Japanese military brothels before and during World War II.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said last week the government will recall Nagamine and Yasuhiro Morimoto, its consul general in Busan in response to the statue installed late last month outside the Japanese consulate in the southern port city.

South Korea Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se summoned Nagamine on Friday to directly express regret over the Japanese government's decision to recall him, though they also reaffirmed their shared intention to implement the agreement.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged South Korea in a TV program Sunday to remove the new statue and called on Seoul to implement the agreement.

Abe added it is "natural" for the South Korean government to make efforts to remove another statue which stands in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul, as South Korea said in the pact that it will solve the issue of the statue "in an appropriate manner." —*Kyodo News*

Philippine troops kill two linked to group supporting Islamic State

MANILA — Philippine security forces on Saturday killed a foreign national and his female companion who were suspected of being connected to a militant group supporting Islamic State, police officials said, two days after the group's leader was also killed.

The foreigner, believed to be Pakistani and identified as Abu Naila, resisted arrest and attempted to throw a grenade while a police and military team was conducting a manhunt in Sarangani province, Chief Superintendent Cedrick Train, a police regional director, said. They were conducting an operation against members of the militant Ansar Al-Khilafah Philippines (AKP), one of a handful of small groups that have pledged allegiance to Islamic State and blamed for years of unrest in the Philippine south.

On Thursday, police chief Ronald dela Rosa said security forces had effectively broken the backbone of AKP with the killing of its leader, Mohammad Jaafar Maguid, and the arrest of his three AKP colleagues.

He has warned of "retaliation" by other AKP members and said security forces were on full alert as Filipino Catholics are set to celebrate the feast of the Black Nazarene, with millions of devotees expected to join processions on Monday in several parts of the country, including Manila.

Authorities have linked Maguid's group to several crimes ranging from arson and murder to bombings.

Regional police spokesman Romeo Galgo said they were still verifying the nationality of the foreigner killed on Saturday. "Officers were forced to fire at the suspects when the grenade was lobbed at them," Train said.

President Rodrigo Duterte has warned against Islamic State taking root in the southeast Asian country, saying it needed to avoid "contamination". —*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail .com
Senior Translators
Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
International News Editor
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Local News Editors
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Computer Team
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114
Advertising inquiry
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

ASEAN keen to further fast-track S China Sea code of conduct: chief

JAKARTA — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is ready to further speed up the process to create a legally binding "code of conduct" in the South China Sea with China, its chief said recently.

Last year, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed to fast-track consultations on the code of conduct, including by developing a framework for the code by mid-2017.

Stressing that the 10-member grouping welcomes the proposal, ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh told Kyodo News in a recent written interview that "ASEAN and China have agreed to intensify consultations on the COC to meet the deadline."

"ASEAN is ready even to further fast-track the COC process by presenting specific contents of such a COC," Minh said, adding that three joint working group meetings on the code of conduct have been scheduled in the first half of 2017.

"We look forward to concluding a COC that is comprehensive and legally binding to govern the conduct and behavior of parties in the South China Sea...(to) help create a favorable environment for a comprehensive and durable settlement of disputes," he added.

Discussions on the code between China and ASEAN, four of whose members — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam — have claims in the South China Sea that overlap those of China, have taken place for over a decade already, amid lingering tensions in the waters. During the first half of this year, three joint working group meetings on the code of conduct have been scheduled, with the first to take place on the Indonesian resort island of Bali next month.

ASEAN, according to Minh, remains seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments in the area, including over land reclamations and an escalation of activities in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region.

That is why, the former Vietnamese foreign minister said, ASEAN keeps consistently and actively engaging China in its efforts to maintain and promote peace and stability in the South China Sea.

China has aggressively asserted its claims in the disputed waters by reclaiming reefs and then installing concrete structures, including those military in nature, despite having jointly signed with ASEAN the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that urges claimants to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability."

Minh also stressed that despite some differences among ASEAN member countries on several issues, including the South China Sea one, ASEAN will not leave its consensus principle in decision making.

"While consensus may take longer to achieve when it comes to agreement or solving disputes, this is ASEAN's way to ensure that no member states are left behind," he said, but added that to improve the efficiency of its work, ASEAN is currently in the process of updating its Charter without elaborating further. The other members of ASEAN, which are not parties to the disputes in the South China Sea, are Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand.—*Kyodo News*

PM Abe urges S Korea to remove new "comfort women" statue

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged South Korea to remove a new statue dedicated to women forced to work in Japan's wartime brothels, as he called on Seoul to implement a bilateral agreement reached in 2015 which aimed to settle the thorny issue.

"The South Korean side should show its sincerity," the premier said on a TV programme on Sunday, referring to the statue installed late last month outside the Japanese consulate in the South Korean city of Busan.

The statue is one of a number in South Korea representing "comfort women" procured for the Japanese military's wartime brothels before and during World War II. The latest statue erection came despite the bilateral agreement in December 2015 aimed at fully settling the issue.

Abe said during the NHK TV programme recorded Friday that South Korea should carry out the agreement irrespective of leadership changes, as this is "a matter of credibility."

The statue issue arose amid political turmoil in South Korea. The parliament impeached President Park Geun Hye last month following a political scandal and her powers have been transferred to acting president and Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn.

In the pact, South Korea said it will strive to solve the issue of a statue which stands in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul "in an appropriate manner." Japan has transferred 1 billion yen ($8.5 million) to care for the surviving victims and their families as part of the deal.

Abe said South Korea should make efforts to remove the statue in Seoul.

The Japanese prime minister also said he will call on US President-elect Donald Trump to reduce the burden that Okinawa Prefecture bears in hosting the bulk of US military facilities in Japan, when he meets the incoming American president.

"I would like to communicate to him the fact that (the alliance) contributes to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and brings substantial benefits to the US economy," said Abe.

Trump pledged in his election campaign to make American allies shoulder more costs related to hosting US military forces abroad.

Local protests in Okinawa against US military bases there increased recently after the crash-landing of an Osprey aircraft in nearby waters.

Sources familiar with bilateral relations have said Abe and Trump are arranging a meeting in the United States in late January, shortly after Trump's inauguration. In November, Abe was the first world leader to meet face-to-face with Trump following his victory over Hillary Clinton.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, shown in this undated photo, urged South Korea to remove a new statue dedicated to women forced to work in Japan's wartime brothels on a TV programme broadcasted on 8 January 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The Japanese leader also indicated his intention to relay to Trump the importance of the Trans-Pacific Partnership pact, a US-led free trade agreement, which it has reached with Japan and 10 other countries, but the incoming president seeks to withdraw from.

Abe said the planned negotiations over future economic cooperation with Russia on Russian-held, Japanese-claimed islands will "without doubt" be progress toward signing a post-World War II peace treaty.

The two leaders agreed in their summit in Japan in December on joint economic activities on the contested islands, known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia.

The prime minister also vowed to withdraw Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force personnel deployed to South Sudan as UN peacekeepers "without hesitation" if the situation there worsens and makes it difficult for the troops to safely fulfill their mission.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistan army chief sells China investment deal in remote Baluchistan

KHUZDAR (Pakistan) — The dusty desert city of Khuzdar in southwestern Pakistan has no hospital and no commercial flights into its tiny airport, but government officials who visited recently spoke in glowing terms of its future as a hub of commerce.

Pakistan's new army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, was among a flock of dignitaries who descended upon Khuzdar, a city of 400,000, to tout the benefits of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for the southwestern province of Baluchistan.

How much the $57 billion network of energy projects, roads and a deep-water port linking western China with Pakistan's southwestern coast will benefit ordinary Pakistanis has been debated in recent months, with critics saying Chinese banks and companies will gain most.

Pakistani officials, however, assured students, officials and citizens at a seminar in Khuzdar that CPEC would bring new prosperity to Pakistan's largest, least-populous and poverty-plagued province.

"Baluchistan unfortunately had been neglected in the past, for a host of reasons, but not anymore," Bajwa told the gathering at Khuzdar's Baluchistan University of Engineering and Technology.

The head of the army is one of the most powerful positions in Pakistan, where the military not only controls security but also operates a vast business empire and often dictates key areas of foreign policy.

Students in the audience were sceptical about whether CPEC would benefit the province.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif speaks at the inauguration of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor port in Gwadar, Pakistan, on 13 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Baluchistan, which has rich reserves of natural gas, copper and gold, has long complained that the national government takes far more from the province than it gives back. Ire over this has contributed to a long-running ethnic separatist rebellion.

A study late last year by the Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC) estimated CPEC would create 700,000 jobs in Pakistan and a Chinese newspaper recently placed the number at more than 2 million. But in Khuzdar, questions about how many jobs would come to Baluchistan from CPEC went unanswered.

"I want to know what share Baluchistan will get and what the other provinces will get and on what basis?" a female student asked during a question and answer session. Concerns over how much Baluchistan will benefit were even voiced by a national official, Minister for Ports and Shipping Hasil Khan Bizenjo.

"We just want to make sure that under CPEC the same thing does not happen to us as 1952, when gas was found in Baluchistan and yet in 2017 there is no gas in Khuzdar," said Bizenjo, originally from Baluchistan and a speaker at the conference.

Other speakers, however, envisioned Khuzdar as a centre of trade and industry.

Baluchistan Chief Minister Sanaullah Zehri said that Khuzdar would be one of 29 Special Economic Zones under CPEC that would "greatly benefit the people of the city".

Khuzdar does not connect the provincial capital, Quetta, to the port city of Gwadar, but state representatives at the conference highlighted its significance as the second-largest city in the province and a potential transit point between Quetta and Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city and economic hub.

"We believe that Khuzdar has the ability to attract a great deal of local and foreign investment," said Anwar Ul-Haq Kakar, a spokesman for the Baluchistan government. The Khuzdar university's vice chancellor, Mohammad Amin, said he hoped CPEC could bring investment and jobs, because the city's location four hours' drive from Quetta had made it difficult to attract even faculty at the school.

"No one is coming because there is no infrastructure here as yet," Amin said of the university. "We will offer any PhD who accepts a job here a brand new Toyota Corolla and a 100 per cent pay increase."—*Reuters*

Over 1,600 persons evacuated in South Philippines due to tropical depression

MANILA — More than 1,600 people have been displaced as a tropical depression, locally named Auring, made a landfall in southern Philippine province of Surigao del Norte on Sunday afternoon.

Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, in a statement, said residents in the path of Auring should follow the precautionary measures being implemented by the local authorities.

She said in Caraga Region alone, 402 families or 1,699 individuals have been displaced and have been served in 12 evacuation centres.

Auring has made landfall over Siargao Island in sourthern province of Surigao del Norte, the state weather forecasting agency said.

Packing maximum winds of up to 55 km per hour near the center and gusts of 70 kph, the tropical depression is expected to continue to stay in the country for four more days before it exits by Thursday afternoon.

Authorities have suspended some of the domestic flights, bus operation and sailing of vessels in the areas affected by Auring.—*Xinhua*

British PM May denies her Brexit strategy is 'muddled'

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Sunday she would set out her strategy for Brexit over the coming weeks, denying suggestions she was "muddled" in the pursuit of what she called the right relationship with the EU.

In her first interview of the year, May ignored growing calls from business leaders, lawmakers and opposition leaders for more detail on her strategy to leave the European Union, offering little beyond a pledge to get the best possible deal.

She repeated that what is a crucial issue on both sides of the EU debate — whether curbing immigration into Britain will be prioritized over preferential access to the bloc's single market — was not a "binary choice" and said that the country would not be keeping "bits" of EU membership.

"First of all I will be setting out some more details in the coming weeks as we look ahead to triggering Article 50," she said, referring to the start of the formal divorce procedure that she will invoke before the end of March.

"But what I am saying is that I think it is wrong to look at this as just a binary issue, as to either you have control of immigration or you have a good trade deal — I don't see it as a binary issue."

EU officials say Britain cannot have access to its single market of 500 million consumers without accepting the principle of free movement and have repeatedly warned May against trying to "cherry pick" the profitable parts of their union.

May said she was aiming for "an ambitious deal", shrugging off a suggestion by Britain's former ambassador to the EU, Ivan Rogers, that her government was "muddled" in its approach to some of the most complicated negotiations the country has held since World War Two.

"Our thinking on this isn't muddled at all," she said.

"What I am talking about is getting the right relationship for the UK with the EU. We mustn't think about this as somehow we are coming out of membership but we want to keep bits of membership."

But beyond stating that she would provide more detail in the coming weeks, May offered little further insight into her strategy — something that the first minister for Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, described as "unacceptable".

"I don't feel as if I know any more about her negotiating objectives today than I did six months ago, and probably what's more worrying than that, I'm not sure she knows more about her negotiating objectives than she did back then as well," Sturgeon told the BBC. Increasingly under fire, May, appointed prime minister after Britain's EU referendum in June, will use a speech on Monday to try to switch the focus from Brexit to her vision of a "shared society" which protects those families who are just managing.

"We must...deliver real social reform across every layer of society so that those who feel that the system is stacked against them — those just above the threshold that attracts the government's focus today yet those who are by no means rich or well off — are also given the help they need," she will say.—*Reuters*

Former PM Valls' lead in Socialist primaries narrows — poll

French politician and former Prime Minister Manuel Valls unveils his election platform to the media ahead of the left's presidential primaries in Paris, France, on 3 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — Former French prime minister Manuel Valls' lead over his opponents in upcoming Socialist primaries has narrowed, an Ifop poll published by the weekly Journal du Dimanche showed on Sunday.

Valls, who is on the right wing of his party, was predicted to win 36 per cent of the first-round vote on 22 January, compared to 45 percent in the same poll in December.

The scores of his main leftist challenger, Arnaud Montebourg, eased by one point to 24 per cent of voting intentions, but the score of Benoît Hamon, another leftist, rose to 21 per cent from 14 in December.

Vincent Peillon, who positions himself at the centre of the party and only entered the race last month, was seen as winning 9 per cent of the first-round votes.

In case of a second-round vote between Valls and Montebourg on 29 January, Montebourg was seen as winning 52 per cent of the votes. Last month, Valls was marginally ahead of Montebourg with 51 per cent of voting intentions.

Other recent polls have shown that no Socialist candidate will make it through to the second round of French presidential elections in May, with conservative candidate Francois Fillon and far-right leader Marine Le Pen most likely to face off against one another. —*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

North Korea says can test-launch ICBM at any time — KCNA

SEOUL — North Korea said on Sunday it can test launch an intercontinental ballistic missile at any time from any location set by leader Kim Jong Un, saying the United States' hostile policy is to blame for its arms development.

Kim said on 1 January that his nuclear-capable country was close to test-launching an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

"The ICBM will be launched anytime and anywhere determined by the supreme headquarters of the DPRK," an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the official KCNA news agency, using the acronym for the country's name.

The North is formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.—*Reuters*

US consular official shot in Mexico, in stable condition

MEXICO CITY — An American consular official was shot in Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city in the restive western state of Jalisco, but is now in stable condition, Mexican authorities said on Saturday.

Mexican federal and state officials are investigating the incident, which occurred on Friday evening, the attorney general's office said in a statement. The US Embassy could not immediately be reached for comment.

Jalisco is one of the engines of the Mexican economy, but the state's southern border turned into a battleground between the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (JNG) and the Michoacan-based Knights Templar.

In May, 2015 JNG gunmen shot down an army helicopter in southwestern Jalisco, claiming the lives of six military personnel.—*Reuters*

At least 15 people hurt by truck ramming into pedestrians in Jerusalem, driver shot — Israel radio

JERUSALEM — A truck rammed into pedestrians in Jerusalem on a popular promenade overlooking the walled Old City of Jerusalem on Sunday, injuring at least 15 people, police and the ambulance service said, calling it a deliberate attack.

"It is a terrorist attack, a ramming attack," a police spokeswoman said on Israel Radio, which reported that bodies were "strewn on the street". The radio said the driver of the vehicle was shot.

The Magen David Adom ambulance service said some 15 people were hurt and at least two were seriously injured. —*Reuters*

Airport shooting suspect chose Florida to launch attack: FBI

FORT LAUDERDALE — The suspect in Florida's deadly airport shooting apparently chose to travel to Fort Lauderdale to carry out the rampage, and there are no signs there was any altercation on the flight or at baggage claim prior to the attack, authorities said on Saturday.

George Piro, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's office in Miami, told reporters the suspect, Esteban Santiago, 26, cooperated with investigators during an interview that lasted several hours overnight.—*Reuters*

Two "dangerous terrorists" killed in Saudi security operation — agency

DUBAI — Two "dangerous terrorists" were killed in a Saudi security operation in the capital Riyadh on Saturday, the Saudi state news agency SPA reported, citing an Interior Ministry spokesman.

The agency said a security officer was also wounded in the operation in the al-Yasmin neighbourhood in northern Riyadh.

Saudi media identified one of the two militants as Taye' al-Say'ari and said he was being sought as an expert in making explosive belts used by militants in suicide attacks.—*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ***ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com*** *with your name and title.*

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

To improve our situation, stronger coordination is required

Aye Min Soe

MYANMAR is in transition to democracy. To build a democratic country, all those who are working in the three main branches of democracy — legislative, executive and judiciary — are obliged to cooperate with each other with magnanimity, tolerance, forgiveness and mutual understanding in the interest of the country and its people.

The three branches have checks and balances over each other to maintain the equilibrium of power and to ensure that constitutional limits are not exceeded. The Hluttaw, or parliament, is the symbol of a democracy. In this transitional period, lawmakers are urged to strive for making the machinery of the parliament strong.

Meanwhile, Members of Parliament who make the law should be mindful that they do not become law-breaking lawmakers.

While carrying out regional development tasks in their respective constituency, when the parliament is not in session, lawmakers have the duty to coordinate with local authorities in order not to exceed their constitutional limits.

In order to bring about better stability and the rule of law rather than the current situation, strong coordination is required.

Democratic rights bring about the rule of law, and the rule of law is necessary for the safety and security of the people.

When countries fail to establish justice and security, the rule of law and peace and stability are the first to suffer.

A breakdown in the rule of law may slow down the road to reintegration after a conflict, cause or exacerbate violence and tensions, and fuel criminality and insecurity.

Only when societies are able to implement and abide by the rule of law can they also achieve other critical milestones, such as inclusive and effective governance and the respect for human rights.

The Truth is more important than the Facts

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe

DEPARTMENT of Myanmar Medical Research is holding its 45th; annual Congress from 9th to 13th January 2017 at Yangon, it is learnt.

Research in general means the discovery of new phenomena, the invention of new methods and the development of new concepts to explain the observed phenomena. It is not just the accumulation of facts and figures. Research is a learned behavior for generating new knowledge, using the scientific methods. It starts from basic education and is enhanced through higher education having the universities' degrees and work careers.

All those researches related to prevention, cure and rehabilitation of diseases, and the promotion and maintenance of health would encompass by the term – Medical Research or Health Research.

Sir Alexander Fleming, a Scottish biologist (1928) noticed (because he is observant) while experimenting on influenza virus that a common fungus, Penicillium notatum had destroyed bacteria in a staphylococcus culture plate. Upon subsequent investigation, he found out that mould juice had developed a bacteria-free zone which inhibited the growth of staphylococci. This newly discovered active substance was effective even when diluted up to 800 times. He named it penicillin. He was knighted in 1944 and was given the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945.

The following sayings are of utmost value for remembering the importance of honesty in research work.

" The cruelest lies are often told in silence."

~ Adlai Stevenson

" Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom."

~ Thomas Jefferson

" The truth is more important than the facts."

~ Frank Lloyd Wright

In the present day, as our country moves towards a democratic nation, the new government has encouraged national reform in the health sector especially in rural development. As with modern day population growth and sub-standard urbanization, the increase in communicable as well as non-communicable diseases becomes a huge problem. The Ministry of Health and Sports strives towards accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs by promoting Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, finding solutions for priority health problems such as drug resistant malaria and tuberculosis, co-infections with HIV and TB, emerging and re-emerging infectious deseases resulting from climatic change and so on.

Research papers presented at the Myanmar Health Research Congress held annually could be considered as impact indicators of Research Capacity Strengthening actions by Ministry of Health and Sports Opportunities prevail to exchange innovative ideas and experiences, new knowledge and technologies as regards priority research needs of the country. Knowledge gaps are filled considering ethical principles: informed consent, privacy and confidentiality. Stringent ethical review, peer review and technical review procedures are essential leading towards quality research proposals. Inter-sectoral coordination and wider stakeholder involvement let evidence-based research findings more convenient to utilize in improvement of policies and programmes.

Health is the product of both living environment and social fabric of various cultures in which lifestyle reflects identities, norms and values of society. To study the culture of health related lifestyle in rural Skaw Kayin ethnic group, cross-sectional descriptive study with medical anthropology approach was conducted by emminent Myanmar researchers. In this study, (216) respondents were face-to-face interviewed by using structured questionnaire and in-depth interviewing with (14) participants to explorer the hidden culture of health related lifestyle. Regarding dietary habit, they mainly took cooked rice, vegetables and fish paste as a main source of energy and suitable for health and viewing vegetables as dietary treatment. Alcohol drinking was found in (25%) respondents and accepted that taking two or three cups of alcohol are good for health and believed as medicine (20%). Smoking (31%) and betel chewing were accepted as a custom. Self-medication (76.9%), buying from medical shop (67%(, seeking advice from quack (11.2%) and neighbor (1.4%) were consisted in health seeking behavior for acute illness. When suffering chronic illness, they went to rural health centre (39.8%), private clinic (26.9%), hospital (13.9%), traditional practitioner (14.8%), traditional healer (8.8%) and fortune teller (6.5%). Rural culture of Buddhism was statistically associated with traditional health seeking behavior involving the offering ancestral spirit (နတ်စားခြင်း) (35.6%), soul calling (လိပ်ပြာခေါ်ခြင်း) (14.8%), offering evil-spirit (ခေါ်ပတောင်းပစ်ခြင်း) (11.1%). As findings highlighted that cultural belief and practices influence on health related lifestyle, health personnel need to understand cultural aspects of specific ethnic group in order to deliver effective health care services.

Another Example :

A cross-sectional study was conducted in one Mon and one Shan village in 2011 with the objectives to identify access to media; communication routes used to receive health information; and preferred route and time. Face-to-face interview using a pre-tested structured questionnaire and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were applied. A total of 301 in Mon and 280 respondents in Shan aged between 18 to 60 years were included. Many respondents (Mon : 45.1%; San: 62.8%) used to listen radio and watched TV (Mon: 65.8%; Shan : 61.6%). Health information was received through individual/ group talk (Mon: 63.8%; Shan 76.8%) and personal communication (Mon: 39.9%; Shan: 36.4%). Additional sources identified were announcement and TV advertisement in Mon; and radio and pamphlet in Shan. Most villagers shared the information they received at gathering places in both sites. Influential persons like monks and village leaders were key players for disseminating the health information. They preferred individual/group health talk as two-way discussion and most of them favored knowledge-based health information. Preferred times for health information were mentioned as 10:00-12:00noon and 6:00-8:00pm by Mon; and as 8:00-10:00am and 6:00-8:00pm by Shan respondents. They preferred to read health information in Myanmar Language since their reading skill for Myanmar is better than their own language. Dissemination of health information should be planned by considering the preferred time and route of local community. Findings from this study were utilized for broadcasting health messages in Cherry FM radio.

Third Example:

Since Pyin Oo Lwin has malaria transmission, numerous malaria patients are admitted to General Hospital every year. A study was conducted to describe the clinical profile of malaria adult patients admitted in Medical Unit of 300 bedded General Hospital during 2003 to 2012. Clinical records were reviewed. Out of 602 confirmed malaria cases, male constituted 68.8%. P. falciparum malaria in 84.9%, P . vivax in 4.8% and mixed infection of P. P. falciparum and P . vivax in 10.3% of the cases were examined. Increasing number of cases were found in 2003, 2004 and 2005 with 73, 77 and 112 patients, respectively. However, decreased incidence was observed in 6 consecutive years since 2006 with 68, 71, 69, 58, 23 and 30 patients per year. Peaks of admission were recorded in the months of July –August and November-December. Mean duration of fever before admission was 7 days. The common presenting symptoms were : fever (98%), chills (43%), rigor (38.5%), altered consciousness (11.8%), vomiting (11.6%), abdominal pain (10.6%), headache (9.5%), body ache (7.1%), convulsion (1.8%), diarrhoea and dysentery (1.8%), scanty urine (1.5%) and inability to sit or stand (0.3%). Mean duration of hospital stay was 5.5 days. Severe and complicated malaria were found in 28.9%. The common complications were cerebral malaria (13.6%), hyperpyrexia (6.8%) and severe anemia (6.1%). All patients were treated according to national anti-malarial treatment guideline. Hospital deaths were recorded in 50 cases (8.3%). Analysis showed that 45 years and above aged cases were more vulnerable to die from severe malaria than others.

Let us praise and honour studious Myanmar Health Researches and hail the 45th Myanmar Health Research Congress.

*****

Rising REITs back bets on stronger economy

NEW YORK — Investors puzzled over whether US interest rates are rising due to a stronger economy or because of fears about inflation might want to look at the recent gains in REITs for some useful guidance.

Real estate investment trusts typically perform poorly in an environment of rising interest rates, as they are used by some investors as a proxy for bonds when fixed income returns pale.

Thus, when yields turn higher, REITs are sold among other reasons on expectations of a higher cost for financing real estate acquisitions, and as their dividend yield becomes less competitive against the risk-free return of Treasuries.

In the period between the bottoming of the 10-year Treasury note yield near 1.3 per cent in early July and the US election four months later, the vanguard REIT exchange-traded fund (VNQ.P) — a popular way for investors to get exposure to the sector — fell nearly 10 per cent. The benchmark S&P 500 index gained almost 2 per cent during the same time period.

But since the 8 November election of President-elect Donald Trump, and despite a rapid increase in the 10-year yield from about 1.8 per cent to near 2.4 per cent, the REITs ETF has gained 4.8 per cent and the S&P added 6.5 per cent.

"REITs are a derivative of credit and the economy so as long as one of those is doing well, REITs will do well," said Alex Goldfarb, the senior REIT analyst at Sandler O'Neill Partners in New York.

"If there's a view that rents will improve, as long as the move in interest rates is not too significant REITs will still perform."

Stocks on Wall Street have rallied since Trump's surprise victory as economic indicators have improved and on bets that the incoming administration will lower taxes, slash regulations and introduce a fiscal stimulus in the form of a massive infrastructure plan.

Trump's policies are also seen as likely to boost inflation, however, which could force the Federal Reserve to raise rates at a faster clip this year than previously expected. On Friday US Treasury debt yields rallied after data showed a rebound in US wages last month. That may put more pressure on the Fed to consider raising interest rates as early as the first quarter.

Among the REITs that have performed the worst through the election rally are those specializing in retail, as the sector continues to struggle against online stores. Earlier this week Kohl's (KSS.N) and Macy's (M.N) reported lower than expected holiday sales and cut their yearly forecasts.

Kimco Realty (KIM.N) and Kite realty (KRG.N), both retail-oriented REITs, are negative since Trump's election.

The backdrop of rising rates could make it ideal for stock pickers within REITs, said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Wunderlich Securities in New York.

Vornado Realty Trust (VNO.N), with office and rental exposure in the high-end markets of New York and Washington, has gained more than 20 per cent since 8 November. Said Hogan: "To say REITs are going to do poorly in a rising rate environment is true simplistically, but if the economy is improving that's going to be cash flow generating for REITs in the right place."—*Reuters*

Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell delivers remarks during a conference at the Brookings Institution in Washington on 3 August, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

New policies coming to America could take weight off Fed: Powell

CHICAGO — A push by Washington for more business-friendly regulation and fiscal support for the economy could improve America's mix of policies which in recent years have relied too much on the Federal Reserve, Fed Governor Jerome Powell said.

Powell, speaking on Saturday at a conference, did not mention the incoming Trump administration by name but his comments suggest some Trump policies will be welcomed by US central bankers who have been urging other institutions to do more to help the economy.

"We may be moving more to a more balanced policy with what sounds like more business-friendly regulation and possibly more fiscal support," Powell told an economics conference in Chicago.

President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office on 20 January, has promised to double America's pace of economic growth, "rebuild" its infrastructure and slash regulatory burdens.

About half of the Fed's 17 policymakers factored a fiscal stimulus into their economic forecasts published in December, according to minutes from the Fed's December policy meeting.

That expected stimulus has led several policymakers to say the Fed will likely raise rates more quickly, but Powell said new policies could also ease the Fed's burden.

"Monetary policy (might be) able to hand it off and I think that's a healthier thing," he said. "We may be moving to a more balanced policy mix."

Following a Congress-enacted fiscal stimulus during and immediately after the 2007-09 recession, the Fed in recent years has been widely seen as the economic authority working the hardest to help the economy.

But throughout 2016, Fed policymakers worried publicly that the US economy was stuck in a low growth path and central banking tools could do little to fix this. Central bankers urged Congress and the US president to pass laws that would help make US businesses and workers more productive.

Fed officials say they still do not know much about how the new administration will change policy. Dallas Fed President Robert Kaplan said on Friday some new policies could help economic growth and others might slow it down.

"Be careful what you wish for," Kaplan said.

Minneapolis Fed President Neil Kashkari, also speaking in Chicago on Saturday, said some banking regulations could tighten under Trump in order to prevent future bailouts.

The US labor market is widely viewed as close to full strength and inflation has shown signs of moving closer to the Fed's 2 per cent target. Powell said there appeared to be higher chances the US economy could outperform expectations. —*Reuters*

HMD Global launches first Nokia smartphone

HELSINKI — HMD Global, the Finnish company that owns the rights to use Nokia's brand on mobile phones, announced on Sunday its first smartphone, targeted for Chinese users with a price of 1,699 yuan ($246).

The launch marks the first new smartphone carrying the iconic handset name since 2014 when Nokia Oyj (NOKIA.HE) chose to sell its entire handset unit to Microsoft (MSFT.O).

The new device, Nokia 6, runs on Google's (GOOGL.O) Android platform and is manufactured by Foxconn (2354.TW). It will be sold exclusively in China through online retailer JD.com (JD.O), HMD said.

"The decision by HMD to launch its first Android smartphone into China is a reflection of the desire to meet the real world needs of consumers in different markets around the world... it is a strategically important market," HMD said in a statement. Nokia was once the world's dominant cellphone maker but missed the shift to smartphones, and then chose Microsoft's Windows operating system for its "Lumia" range.

After the 2014 deal, Microsoft continued selling cheaper basic phones under Nokia's name and Lumia smartphones under its own name, but last year, it largely abandoned both businesses.

A new Nokia 6 smartphone is seen in this handout image released by HMD to Reuters on 7 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

HMD in December took over the Nokia feature phones business and struck a licensing deal that gave it sole use of the Nokia brand on all phones and tablets for the next decade. It will pay Nokia royalties for the brand and patents, but Nokia has no direct investment in HMD. Nokia Oyj is currently focused on telecom network equipment business and technology patents. HMD CEO Arto Nummela, who was once responsible for Nokia's sales and product development, told Reuters last month that HMD aims to be one of the key competitive players in the smartphone business where it faces tough competition from Apple (AAPL.O), Samsung (005930.KS) and dozens of other players.

HMD launched some new Nokia basic phones last month. It said on Sunday it was looking to launch more new products in the first half of the year.—*Reuters*

China is confident economy grew 6.7 percent in 2016

BEIJING — China is confident to have reached an economic growth of 6.7 per cent in 2016, within a targeted range set earlier in the year, Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao said on Sunday.

China's economy expanded at a steady 6.7 per cent in the first three quarters last year, and Zhu said he was confident the growth rate would have reached the same level or more in the fourth quarter of 2016. Zhu's remarks were made at a forum held by Tsinghua University in Beijing.

China, which had been aiming for a 6.5-7 per cent economic growth for 2016, boosted government spending, saw a housing rally and record high levels of bank lending last year, which, however, also led to an explosive increase in debt. Many analysts believe growth was lower than official data suggests, but acknowledge that the construction boom significantly underpinned the economy.

A government-run think tank said earlier this month that China's economic growth could slow to 6.5 per cent in 2017 from about 6.7 per cent in 2016. Zhu also said the global economy would face some uncertainty this year amid worries about US policy changes after President-elect Donald Trump takes office on 20 January. During his campaign, Trump threatened to declare Beijing a currency manipulator and levy a 45 per cent punitive tax on all Chinese goods to reduce a massive US trade deficit with China.—*Reuters*

Ivory Coast Streets of Ivory Coast's second city calm after soldier mutiny

BOUAKE — The streets of Ivory Coast's second-largest city Bouake were calm and the military presence was gone, residents said on Sunday, after a two-day soldiers' mutiny calling for bonus pay and better living conditions took over the city.

The mutiny began early on Friday when rogue soldiers seized Bouake. Soldiers at military camps in cities and towns across the country, including the commercial capital Abidjan, joined the rebellion.

A deal was reached between the government and the soldiers late on Saturday after negotiations, and a mutineer close to the negotiations said on Sunday soldiers had returned to barracks.

"We have cleared the corridors everywhere as promised and we have been in barracks since last night," Sergeant Mamadou Kone told Reuters. "I confirm that all over the country all our men have returned to barracks and wait for their money. The mutiny is over for us."

He said the soldiers expect to be paid on Monday.

A man sits on a truck in Djebonoua, outside Bouake, as disgruntled soldiers demanding salary increases seized the city of Bouake, Ivory Coast, on 6 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Traffic, snarled since Friday by roadblocks and barricades, was clear in Bouake, residents said, and the city was returning to normal. The gunfire of recent days had stopped.

"We spent a quiet night without shooting in the city and this morning we no longer see a soldier in the streets," said resident Benoit Konan.

Other cities were also reported to be calm on Sunday, residents and Reuters witnesses said, including Abidjan, where a day earlier loyalist troops were deployed at strategic locations in the city and residents rushed to supermarkets to buy bottled water and other provisions.

There was no sign of military on the streets of Abidjan on Sunday. People were seen walking to church, shops were open and traffic moved as normal, a Reuters reporter said.

Ivory Coast — French-speaking West Africa's largest economy and the world's leading cocoa producer — has emerged from a 2002-2011 political crisis as one of the continent's rising economic stars.

But years of conflict and a failure to reform its army, thrown together from a patchwork of former rebel fighters and government soldiers, have left it with an unruly force hobbled by internal divisions.

The revolt comes two years after hundreds of soldiers barricaded roads in cities across Ivory Coast demanding back pay in a near identical uprising.

Then too the government agreed a deal that included amnesty from punishment and a financial settlement for the mutineers.—*Reuters*

Netanyahu tried to negotiate a good press in return for benefits-media

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, under police investigation for suspected corruption, was caught on tape negotiating mutual benefits with an arch-foe, the owner of one of Israel's largest-selling newspapers, Israeli media reported on Sunday.

The report, which Israeli media outlets described as "an earthquake" that could have implications for Netanyahu's political future, drew no immediate comment from the prime minister or Yedioth Ahronoth daily owner Noni Mozes.

Channel Two television said the right-wing leader had offered to limit the circulation of Israel Hayom, a free, pro-Netanyahu daily owned and published by US billionaire and Republican party donor Sheldon Adelson, if Mozes' Yedioth Ahronoth gave the prime minister more favourable coverage.

Steps to cut Israel Hayom's market-leading circulation could have financial benefits for Mozes, whose newspaper's advertising revenues have been hit by its free competitor.

It was unclear exactly when the reported conversation took place. The Haaretz daily said it occurred several months ago.

Netanyahu last week was twice questioned by police in two different cases. The first involved receiving gifts, including expensive cigars and champagne from businessmen, police and the Justice Ministry said. Netanyahu's lawyer said such presents from friends were not illegal.

Authorities have not released any details publicly about the second case, reported by Channel 2.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting at his office in Jerusalem on 8 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

That Netanyahu and Mozes would have a dialogue was greeted with close to astonishment by the Israeli media. Netanyahu has openly accused Mozes and Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper of trying to overthrow his leadership through skewed coverage, an allegation they deny.

On Sunday, Netanyahu again pointed the finger at the media and said he was being personally hounded.

"This is wrong, incessant pressure from the media on law enforcement. They release balloons and the hot air comes out of them time after time.

That will be the case here too," Netanyahu told Likud ministers before Channel 2 broadcast its report.

Mozes could not be reached for comment by Reuters. Yedioth Ahronoth did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment on the report. Netanyahu's spokesman did not respond to requests for comment.

In the past few weeks Netanyahu has lashed out at journalists who have published critical reports about his administration and his alleged ties with wealthy businessmen.

Israeli media have reported that in the first case, police questioned Netanyahu about receiving gifts from Israeli Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan over the past few years.—*Reuters*

Air strikes resume on rebel-held Damascus water-source valley

BEIRUT — Air strikes resumed on Sunday in a rebel-held valley near Damascus containing the Syrian capital's main water supply, a day after insurgents and the government failed to agree a plan to repair the springs knocked out of service two weeks ago.

The government and allied fighters from the Lebanese group Hezbollah launched an offensive two weeks ago to take back Wadi Barada, a mountainous valley overlooked by pro-government military positions where springs provided water to four million people in the capital.

The government says it wants to enter the rugged valley to permanently secure water supply to the capital. Rebels and local activists say pro-government forces are using the water issue to score a political victory weeks after the fall of Aleppo city, using siege and bombardment to force fighters into agreeing to leave.

Through a series of so-called settlement agreements, sieges and army offensives, the Syrian government, backed by Russian air power and Iran-backed militias, has been steadily suppressing armed opposition around the capital.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said air strikes began on Sunday morning, after a lull since Saturday morning during which a new round of negotiations over repairs took place.

A military media unit run by the Syrian government's ally Hezbollah said on Sunday it was suspending a ceasefire in the Wadi Barada area because rebels were disrupting negotiations and had opened fire on repair teams.

The Wadi Barada media office, run by local activists connected to the negotiating team, said it was untrue that any repair team had entered the valley, saying engineers had waited at the area's border while negotiations went on.

The Hezbollah-affiliated media unit also said it was the Syrian Islamist militia formerly called the Nusra Front which fired on the teams. The Syrian government has said Nusra Front, now called Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and Islamic State were excluded from a nationwide ceasefire which came into force 10 days ago.

The Wadi Barada media office denied the Nusra fighters were present in the valley. —*Reuters*

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-2302	15:00	16:55	1,5,6,7
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	15:45	19:15	2,4,6,7
UB-017	17:45	19:15	1,3,5
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-2351	10:10	11:00	1,5,6,7
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6,7

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:15	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:20	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:45	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-012	07:00	11:30	7
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-012	12:30	15:45	7
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2823	9:45	2:15	1,2,4,5,6,7
UB-001	7:30	11:45	Daily

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:40	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3k-581	09:10	10:40	1,3,4,5,6,7
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,6,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:00	20:15	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	14:00	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	3,7

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	3,5

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:35	Daily

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA -251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,4,6

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	3,5,6

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG -724	13:40	15:35	Daily

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MDL TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6

SIN TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT to BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7

BKK TO NYT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7

AIRLINE CODES

8M	=	Myanmar Airways International			
BG	=	Biman Bangladesh Airlines			
MH	=	Malaysia Airlines			
MU	=	China Eastern Airlines			
NH	=	All Nippon Airways			
SQ	=	Singapore Airways			
PG	=	Bangkok Airways			
UB	=	Myanmar National Airlines			
VN	=	Vietnam Airline			
3K	=	Jet Star	AK	=	Air Asia
AI	=	Air India	CA	=	Air China
CI	=	China Airlines	CZ	=	China Southern
DD	=	Nok Airline	FD	=	Air Asia
KA	=	Dragonair	KE	=	Korea Airlines
MI	=	Silk Air	QR	=	Qatar Airways
TG	=	Thai Airways	TR	=	Tiger Airline

DAY					
			4	=	Thursday
1	=	Monday	5	=	Friday
2	=	Tuesday	6	=	Saturday
3	=	Wednesday	7	=	Sunday

Japan, German researchers trying to save endangered rhinos using iPS

TOKYO — A Japanese scientist has teamed up with a group of German researchers to try to save the almost-extinct northern white rhinoceros by producing eggs from induced pluripotent stem cells.

There are currently only three of the animals left alive — one male and two females, living in a natural preserve in Kenya, according to Katsuhiko Hayashi, professor of reproductive biology at Kyushu University.

The animals cannot breed naturally due to age or disease.

If Hayashi and the team from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin successfully produce eggs, then the next step would be to fertilize them with frozen semen in vitro, and then impregnate a closely related animal, possibly a southern white rhinoceros, he said.

With not much relevant data available, the team will have to start with basic research, according to Hayashi. "The implementation will take a long time," he said.

Hayahsi, who had produced eggs out of the iPS cells of a mouse from which mice have been born, said he has provided the team in Germany with technical guidance.

Supplied photo taken in April 2010 shows the only three northern white rhinoceros left alive in a nature preserve in Kenya. A Japanese scientist has teamed up with a group of German researchers to try to save the animals by producing eggs from induced pluripotent stem cells. PHOTO: REUTERS

Northern white rhinoceroses were originally distributed across central Africa with a population of about 2,300 in the 1960s. But their numbers decreased dramatically due to hunting as their horns were used in Chinese medicine.

Civil wars in the region have also affected their decline. No wild northern white rhinoceros has been confirmed since 2006.

In human medicine, research is under way to apply iPS cells in regenerative medicine and drug development as the cells can grow into various human body tissues.—*Kyodo News*

China's scientific innovation gains momentum in 2016

BEIJING — From the Internet to space missions, scientific innovation picked up speed in China last year, as the country has its sights set becoming an innovative nation by 2020.

Thanks to mobile broadband systems developed by Chinese scientists, the Internet became affordable for more people in 2016. By the end of November, China had a total of 730 million 4G mobile users and nearly 300 million broadband users.

In June, China's new supercomputer Sunway-TaihuLight was named the world's fastest at an international supercomputing conference in Germany. It is already being used in meteorology, aviation and medicine.

China also had successes in other areas including deep-sea research and spaceflight. In January, unmanned submersible Qianlong-2 completed its maiden dive in the southwest Indian Ocean and is now capable of diving to a depth of 4,500 metres. In August, unmanned submersible Haidou-1 reached a depth of 10,767 metres in the Mariana Trench, a new Chinese record. China is only the third country, after Japan and the United States, to build submersibles capable of reaching depths in excess of 10,000 metres.—*Xinhua*

French military to boost defences against cyber attacks — minister

PARIS — France is no less vulnerable than the United States to cyber attacks from foreign countries and the French military will boost its resources to defend against them, the French defence minister said on Sunday.

In an interview with French weekly Le Journal du Dimanche Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said there is a real risk of cyber attacks on French civil infrastructure such as water, electricity, telecommunications and transport, as well as against French democracy and the media.

US intelligence agencies said in a report released on Friday that Russian President Vladimir Putin had directed a cyber campaign to help Republican Donald Trump's electoral chances by discrediting Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Asked whether France was immune from such attacks, Le Drian said "No, of course not, we should not be naive".

France will hold presidential elections in April-May and leading conservative challenger Francois Fillon has said he wants to improve relations with Russia and has been praised by Putin. Far-right candidate Marine Le Pen also favours closer relations with Russia.

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (C) listens to a soldier who explains a security mission the day before New Year's eve celebrations in Paris, France, on 30 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

French-Russian relations have been strained by Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014 and over Russia's role in the war in Syria. Outgoing socialist French President Francois Hollande has cancelled the sale of warships to Russia, and played a key role in imposing sanctions on Russia over Crimea.

Le Drian said that if the US election had indeed been manipulated, it would be an unbearable interference, as targeting a country's electoral means attacking its democratic foundations and its sovereignty.

"Our services have discussed the subject, if only to learn lessons for the future," said Le Drian, who also referred to a cyber attack on French TV station TV5Monde in 2015.

In April 2015, hackers knocked the station off the air. French judicial sources told Reuters later that Russian hackers linked to the Kremlin could have been behind the attack.

Le Drian said the number of cyber attacks against his ministry doubled every year and that in 2016 about 24,000 external attacks had been blocked by security, including attempts at disrupting France's drone systems.

France should not only be able to defend itself against cyber attacks but should also be able to strike itself when necessary, Le Drian said. He said the French army's number of "digital soldiers" would be doubled to 2,600 by 2019, with support of an additional 600 cyber experts.

Le Drian said that in case of a cyber attack, the country could respond in kind as well as with conventional weapons.—*Reuters*

Sri Lanka launches China-led investment zone amid protests

HAMBANTOTA, Sri Lanka — Sri Lankan police used tear gas and water cannons on Saturday to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing demonstrators protesting against a planned investment zone supported by China.

Hospital authorities said at least 21 people were injured in the protests. According to police, 52 demonstrators were arrested.

Protesters say that the government of President Maithripala Sirisena is trying to evict thousands of families to provide 15,000 acres (6,070 hectares) of land in the projected industrial zone for Chinese investors.

The zone is in the southern district of Hambantota, where China has already built a $1.5 billion port and airport, part of President Sirisena's ambitious $50 billion development project to revive the economy.

The government has denied the protesters' claim and says opposition is driven by former president Mahinda Rajapaksa's political ambitions.

Rajapaksa, who is trying to make a political comeback, has publicly criticized the plan, saying it will deprive people of agricultural land.

At Saturday's opening of the investment zone, Chinese ambassador Yi Xianlang struck an upbeat note.

"This is the moment for China to help other countries who need investments," the Chinese envoy to Sri Lanka told the launching ceremony. "No force can stop the cooperation from China to Sri Lanka."

He also said the investment zone would be the most important economic project of this government and "if everything goes well", China would invest $5 billion during the next three to five years and create 100,000 jobs.

Sirisena's government is already in the final phase of discussion with China Merchants Port Holdings Company Ltd to develop the China-built port, granting them 80 percent stake on a 99-year lease for $1.12 billion.

China's interest in the port may reflect its ambition to build a "Maritime Silk Route" to the oil-rich Middle East and onwards to Europe.

That makes some countries, including India and the United States, nervous with Sri Lanka's proximity to shipping lanes through which much of the world's trade passes en route to China and Japan.

The port was built with Chinese loans and contractors in 2010 under Rajapaksa, as part of efforts to develop the country's infrastructure after ending a 26-year war in 2009.—*Reuters*

Thousands demonstrate in Paris over murder of Kurdish militants

PARIS — Several thousand people demonstrated in Paris on Saturday to demand justice and a speedier investigation into the 2013 murder of three Kurdish activists.s

Sakine Cansiz, a founder of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the early 1980s, and two other Kurdish women were found dead in the Kurdish Information Centre in Paris in January 2013, all shot at close range.

Some 5,500 people, according to police estimates, marched through central Paris demanding French authorities find out who was behind the killing of the three women.

"We will continue our protest until justice is done," Kurdish activist Nursel Kilic told Reuters television.

The trial of the main suspect, 34-year old Turkish national Omer Guney, was due to open on 23 January. But Guney — who maintained he was innocent — died of a brain tumour last month. He had been placed under formal investigation within about a week of the triple murder.—*Reuters*

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Merck KGaA, a company incorporated in Germany and having its registered office at Frankfurter Str.250, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

MET-NEUROBION

Reg. No. 4/7512/2010 (5.10.2010)

In respect of "Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic substances adapted for medical use" in **International Class 5.**

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, *H.G.P*
For **Merck KGaA.,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Dated **9 January 2017** lmm@kcyangon.com

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1 / 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-079(16-17)	Spares for CNG Compressor Cooling System (7) Items	US$
(2)	DMP/L-020(16-17)	Assorted Kind of Engineering Workshop Tools (3) Groups	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-021(16-17)	Brandt Shale Shaker Screen for NAT; 55 Series (3) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-022(16-17)	Mechanical Seal for Andritz Pump(6)Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 24-1-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5TH January, 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

Last day for SeaWorld killer whale show in California

SAN DIEGO — SeaWorld in San Diego will host its last killer whale performance on Sunday, the culmination of its promise to phase out the decades-old show after criticism of its treatment of the captive marine mammals.

SeaWorld Entertainment Inc (SEAS.N) President and Chief Executive Officer Joel Manby said in 2015 that the company would replace its signature theatrical killer whale show at the San Diego park with a new presentation focusing on conservation and orcas' natural behavior. SeaWorld last year also announced it would stop breeding killer whales in captivity, several months after the California Coastal Commission voted to bar the company from continuing to breed the marine mammals in the state.

Young children get a close-up view of an Orca killer whale during a visit to the animal theme park SeaWorld in San Diego, California on 19 March, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

The last so-called One Ocean show scheduled for Sunday brings to a close a commercially successful series of performances that have been held at SeaWorld San Diego under different names since the 1960s. Some fans continue to call the show by its previous name of "Shamu."

The last theatrical orca show at SeaWorld San Diego comes after the death on Friday at Sea World Orlando of Tillikum, an orca involved in the deaths of three people which was featured in the 2013 documentary film "Blackfish." The film made the case against keeping orcas in captivity. SeaWorld said that after Sunday's final One Ocean show it will transition on Monday to an educational orca programme, with bleachers set up around the killer whale underwater viewing area for guests to watch a presentation on the animals. The company also plans to debut its larger education programme called Orca Encounter in San Diego this summer. "SeaWorld Orlando and SeaWorld San Antonio will follow by 2019," the company added.

Some activists have called for SeaWorld to release the more than 20 orcas it keeps at its three parks into coastal sanctuaries, but the company contends that whales born or raised in captivity would likely die in the wild.—*Reuters*

Gov't eyes giving legal ground to future emperor abdication

TOKYO — The government is considering paving the way for future emperors' abdication amid its advisory panel's discussions on one-off special legislation enabling Emperor Akihito to renounce his throne, sources close to the matter said on Sunday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government is opposed to creating a permanent system to allow abdication by revising the Imperial House Law on the grounds it is difficult to set conditions that would always prove suitable in the future.

The expert panel is expected to release later this month a report summarizing issues pertaining to the 83-year-old emperor's possible abdication and support the idea of creating special legislation applicable only to the current emperor.

Public opinion polls by media outlets have shown that citizens generally support new legislation allowing abdication for all future emperors. The government is now studying the possibility of attaching to the imperial law a supplementary provision which says emperors can abdicate when allowed by special legislation, the sources said.

Such a provision would effectively establish a permanent system to permit abdication, said a source familiar with discussions of the advisory panel.

The move comes after concerns have been raised that creating special legislation would violate the Constitution that stipulates the imperial throne shall be "succeeded to in accordance with the Imperial House Law."

The government is expected to submit to parliament in late April a bill on the legislation.

The issue arose after the emperor strongly hinted at his wish to step down and hand over the Chrysanthemum throne to 56-year-old Crown Prince Naruhito in a rare video message released last August, although no provision in current law assumes such a situation.

The government set up the expert panel in September to study ways to alleviate the burden on the emperor.
—*Kyodo News*

Spain sees joint sovereignty over Gibraltar difficult if UK opposes

MADRID — Spain sees just a slim chance of joint sovereignty over Gibraltar if Britain opposes it, its foreign minister said in an interview with the leading Spanish newspaper El Pais.

"I think you have to be realistic, if the United Kingdom does not want to negotiate it will be difficult to carry it forward," Alfonso Dasits, said in his first interview with a Spanish newspaper since he was appointed minister in November. Spain, which reappointed Mariano Rajoy as its new conservative prime minister at the end of October, is seeking to jointly govern Gibraltar with the UK following the British vote to leave the European Union.

Dastis said, however, that if Gibraltar wanted to have a relationship with the EU, "it would have to be consulted with us. That will require a bilateral agreement between Spain and the United Kingdom."

The peninsula on Spain's south coast, a British territory since 1713 known to its 30,000 residents as "the Rock", is a major point of contention in Anglo-Spanish relations. Spain has long claimed sovereignty over the enclave.—*Reuters*

Thousands of Mexicans protest gasoline price hikes

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans angry over a spike in gasoline prices took to the streets of Mexico City on Saturday after days of protests spurred looting in hundreds of stores, resulting in over a thousand arrests in Latin America's second-largest economy.

Mexico's government hiked gasoline costs by 14 to 20 percent earlier this month, fuelling outrage among Mexicans already facing rising inflation and adding to a long list of headaches besetting President Enrique Pena Nieto.

The hike is part of a gradual, year-long price liberalization the Pena Nieto administration has promised to implement this year. But the government's many efforts to justify the hike have fallen on deaf ears.

"No to the gasoline price hike, Pena out," protesters yelled as they marched from Mexico City's centre to the Presidential residence.

While there were no reports of violence in Mexico City on Saturday, the backlash has been far from peaceful.

Mexican authorities on Friday reported over 1,500 arrests since the protests began when price hikes kicked in on 1 January. Mexican retail association ANTAD said on Friday that 423 stores were sacked, nearly half in the central state of Mexico, near the capital.

Local media reported marches on Saturday in the Mexican states of Sonora, Chiapas, Guerrero, Jalisco, Tabasco and Puebla as well.—*Reuters*

Protesters march during a demonstration against the rising prices of gasoline enforced by the Mexican government at downtown in Mexico City, Mexico, on 7 January, 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Bieber, Usher win dismissal of copyright lawsuit

NEW YORK — A federal judge has dismissed a $10 million lawsuit accusing Justin Bieber and Usher of illegally copying parts of their song "Somebody to Love" from an identically titled song by two Virginia songwriters.

In an order on Thursday, US District Judge Arenda Wright Allen in Norfolk, Virginia adopted a federal magistrate judge's finding that Devin Copeland and his cousin Mareio Overton failed to show that Bieber and Usher had access to their 2008 song before creating their own work in early 2010.

Allen dismissed the lawsuit with prejudice, meaning it cannot be brought again.

Duncan Byers, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, did not immediately respond on Friday to requests for comment. In a court filing last month, Copeland, who performs as De Rico, and Overton said they had resolved their disputes with Bieber, and with Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group and Def Jam Recordings.

Singers Justin Bieber and Usher (R) pose together after performing on NBC's 'Today' show in New York, US, on 23 November 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Usher, whose full name is Usher Raymond, and Sony Corp's Sony/ATV Musical Publishing LLC were among the other defendants.

Allen had first dismissed the lawsuit in March 2014, but a federal appeals court revived the case in June 2015, saying a jury could find the songs' choruses "intrinsically similar."

Bieber and Usher claimed that their song was based on a November 2009 version by songwriter Heather Bright and a production trio, The Stereotypes.

But the plaintiffs said music industry executives had given the singers access sooner.

They also said the magistrate judge made several errors, including by deciding that songs were not "strikingly similar" rather than leaving that question for a jury.

Allen said the plaintiffs' objections were without merit.

Bieber's version of "Somebody to Love" credited him as a co-writer, and peaked at No 15 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The case is Copeland et al v Bieber et al, US District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, No, 13-00246.—*Reuters*

Ed Sheeran accepts the award for Song of the Year for "Thinking Out Loud" at the 58th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 15 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

British musician Ed Sheeran returns with two new singles

LONDON — British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran ended a near-two year hiatus from music by releasing two new singles, "Shape of You" and "Castle on the Hill", on Friday.

"Cause I've been away for a bit here's two singles rather than one", the 25-year-old Grammy and BRIT Award-winner posted on Twitter.

"Shape of You" was initially being written for Barbadian singer Rihanna but Sheeran told BBC Radio 1's Breakfast Show that he changed his mind as the lyrics progressed.

Sheeran, who has become one of Britain's top-selling artists in recent years and written songs for One Direction, Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber, did not say whether an album would follow the two releases.

The songs are Sheeran's first since he released "Photograph" in May 2015. He told the BBC he spent his time off travelling as he "never saw anything other than hotels, venues and a bar" when touring.—*Reuters*

'Silence' proves Scorsese's faith in passion project

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-eight years in the making, Martin Scorsese's "Silence" premiered on Thursday, raising questions of faith over both the subject matter and in Scorsese's dedication to the project.

"Overwhelming that you would be asked to journey with him on this kind of adventure of the soul that he's been willing to take for the last 28 years, and to be given this role...was confusing and humbling," said actor Andrew Garfield.

In "Silence", Garfield plays Sebastiao Rodrigues, a 17th century Portuguese Jesuit priest who travels to Japan with a fellow missionary in search of their mentor, Father Cristovao Ferreira, portrayed by Liam Neeson, who has renounced his faith under torture.

The priests arrive in Japan at a time when Catholicism is outlawed, and face violence and persecution in their evangelizing mission, which causes a crisis of faith.

A combination photo shows recording artist Usher in Paris, France on 4 October, 2016, and Justin Bieber performing in Los Angeles, California, US, on 2 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The epic historical drama is based on the acclaimed 1966 novel of the same name by late Japanese writer Shusaku Endo and was shot in Taiwan.

Scorsese has said he was struck by the questions the book raises over faith, doubt, weakness and God's role in the face of human suffering. However, getting the screenplay right alone took the Oscar-winning director 15 years, and finding funding proved difficult. The film, which runs for an unusually long 2 hours and 45 minutes, has not been included in the nominations for either the Golden Globes or the Screen Actors Guild this year. —*Reuters*

Rapper Tinie Tempah makes catwalk debut with menswear line in London

Designer and musician Tinie Tempah speaks during an interview backstage of his What We Wear catwalk show during London Fashion Week Men's 2017 in London, Britain on 7 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — British rapper Tinie Tempah made his catwalk debut at London Fashion Week Men's on Saturday with a minimalistic, casualwear collection inspired by architecture and "the everyday man".

The 28-year-old, known for hits such as "Written in the Stars" and "Not Letting Go", opted for a simple color palette of navy blue, gray, white and black to present his first creations of mainly loose tops, trousers and shorts for his menswear brand "What We Wear".

To the sound of a live music performance, models walked down the catwalk in zip jackets, large tops, drawstring shorts and ankle-length tracksuit-like trousers in cotton, neoprene, linen and nylon. The "Pleats & Poppers" collection also featured subtle folds in designs and easy fastening on sleeves or the sides of trouser legs. The looks were accessorised with white sports shoes bearing the "What We Wear" logo at the back.

"I was very much inspired by architecture, especially European architecture as well, traveling throughout Scandinavia and even now I think east London is starting to adopt a lot of that as well," the rapper told Reuters backstage.

"And then again it was the everyday London man...I'm excited to be able to get my vision of the way I see menswear in 2017 going onto 2020 and beyond."

Tempah, who has designed clothing before, said the line would launch in April and that he would also consider doing a collection for women's wardrobes eventually.

"To be honest I got a little bit bored of people just saying I was really stylish just for wearing other people's clothes," he said of his decision to launch the menswear line.

"After a while I feel like people start to put more of the emphasis on the clothes than the actual person...I started to feel like I was a bit of a walking mannequin." —*Reuters*

Pub drinkers pile in for centuries-old English scrap

HAXEY (England) — Boozy pub goers from two English villages dived into the mud and resumed their centuries-old scrap for a metre-long leather tube in the annual Haxey Hood challenge on Friday.

Part rugby, part wrestling, the traditional contest sees four pubs in the Lincolnshire villages of Westwoodside and Haxey battle to get the tube, also known as the 'Hood', back to their tavern without throwing or running with it.

The contest, which dates back to the 14th century and begins with a speech by 'The Fool' and the burning of hay, is refereed by 'The Lord'.

Helpful officials known as 'boggins' are on hand to pull out any competitors who look in danger of being crushed in the melee, also termed the 'sway'.

The contest is thought to have started when a farm worker beat 12 others to retrieve the silk hood of a local landowner who had lost it while riding her horse in the wind. This year's battle, aided by alcohol, lasted several hours before the King's Arms in Haxey were declared winners after wrestling the tube to their premises.—*Reuters*

The Fool Dale Smith is smoked as he starts the traditional annual Haxey Hood game in Haxey, Britain on 6 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Skating is a frosty love affair for elderly Hungarians

BUDAPEST — In sub-zero temperatures, dozens of elderly Hungarians take to Budapest's beautiful City Park Ice Rink on their skates each morning to keep hale and hearty through ice dancing.

The history of the ice dancers' group dates back to the 1950s. It includes former professionals as well as enthusiastic amateurs now. The ice rink is the largest and the second oldest of its kind in Europe.

"This keeps me in good shape ... as it moves every muscle," said Mara Patai, 70, with a big smile.

She started professional figure skating as a child but gave it up as her ankle was too weak, only to pick it up 50 years later when she retired. Her ice skating partner is Laszlo Gombos, 70, who started ice dancing after he recovered from prostate cancer.

"To get over this, I thought I could perhaps switch off this way ... as this is what I really love doing, so I decided to do ice dancing," he said.

In each of the past 17 years he learned a new dance, and he says with his partner he goes to another, covered ice rink twice a week even in the summer.

All of the dancers say ice skating is their life now, as it keeps them both physically and mentally fit, improves their balance and keeps them in good company.

"One can express feelings via the beautiful moves and music, this is magical ... and of course the applause I still get," says Judit Bartfai, 73, who used to be a ballet dancer and a professional ice dancer in the Hungarian ice revue from 1959 until 1981.—*Reuters*

An elderly woman skates in sub-zero temperatures at the City Park Ice Rink in Budapest, Hungary, on 6 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chinese city to promote "toilet chiefs" for better management

XI'AN — The northwestern Chinese city of Xi'an, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country, is to appoint "toilet chiefs" this year, the city tourism bureau said on Sunday.

The city aims to make all public toilets and those in restaurants and entertainment venues meet national standards in terms of sufficient numbers, and cleanliness. All public toilets should also be free of charge. The city will attempt to contract management of toilets to private enterprises and individuals, with cleaning companies maintaining toilets more professionally.

The condition of toilets will be included in the assessment of tourist attractions and restaurants.

China is in the midst of a three-year "toilet revolution," building 33,500 new toilets and renovating 25,000 by the end of the year, according to the National Tourism Administration.—*Xinhua*

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(9-1-2017 07:00am ~ 10-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-Lacquareware Making
07:52	Am	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Pyit)
08:36	Am	The Iron Rider
08:50	Am	Sagaing: Youth Leader
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Lucky Boy
09:42	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
10:42	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-8)(Part-2)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Tai Khun (or) Gon: their life and customs (Part 1)
08:44	Pm	A Simple And Peaceful Life

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Programme Schedule (9-1-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:30 Am
- People Talks

8:30 Am
- Women in Myanmar Society

9:30 Am
- Documentary

10:30 Am
Solution for Agriculture

11:15 Am
- Documentary (ASEAN)

11:35 Pm
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:35 Pm
- Teleplay

1:00 Pm
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

2:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

3:15 Pm
- Tsty Trip

4:15 Pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) Second Year (Phsychology)

4:35 Pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

5:15 Pm
- This Week's Special Interest

5:35 Pm
- Yes or No Talk Show

6:35 Pm
- Law Affairs

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm
- News/International News/ Weather Report

9:00 Pm
- News/ Weather Report
- TV Drama Series
- MCN Debate

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

12th Waxing of Pyatho 1378 ME

Monday, 9 January 2017

Rooney record in United rout, Leicester win at Everton

Photo: Reuters

LONDON — Wayne Rooney left his footprint on FA Cup third-round day with the first goal in holders Manchester United's 4-0 rout of Championship side Reading on Saturday to draw level with Bobby Charlton as the club's record scorer.

His seventh-minute effort took his United tally to 249 since joining the 12-times Cup winners in 2004, but Rooney failed to surpass Charlton's long-standing mark as Anthony Martial and two late goals from Marcus Rashford completed United's comfortable victory at Old Trafford.

Premier League champions Leicester City claimed a first away win all season as they beat Everton 2-1 with Ahmed Musa scoring both goals after the hosts had taken the lead.

Surprises were in short supply on one of the standout days in the English soccer calendar.

The most notable came in south London where League One (third tier) Millwall humbled top-flight Bournemouth 3-0.

Tony Pulis's West Bromwich Albion — eighth in the Premier League — were beaten by Championship (second tier) Derby County 2-1 at home while his former club Stoke City lost 2-0 at home to Championship Wolverhampton Wanderers.

This year's lowest ranked survivors, seventh-tier Stourbridge, suffered a disappointing end to their journey as they lost 2-1 at League Two Wycombe Wanderers.

Lincoln City, who now play in the National League, gave former Cup winners Ipswich Town a fright, twice taking the lead before settling for a 2-2 draw at Portman Road where they were roared on by 5,000 visiting fans.

Former England manager Sam Allardyce is still waiting for his first win since taking charge of Premier League strugglers Crystal Palace after his side drew 0-0 at Bolton Wanderers where he spent eight years in charge.

In a battle between two managers named by relegation-threatened Premier League clubs this week, Marco Silva began his tenure at bottom side Hull City with a 2-0 victory over Swansea City for whom Paul Clement picked the side for the first time.

Two former Cup winners, Sunderland and Southampton, require replays after draws on Saturday. Sunderland were held 0-0 by Premier League rivals Burnley while Southampton were frustrated when Norwich City equalised in stoppage time for a 2-2 draw.

Arsenal play at Preston North End later and Premier League leaders Chelsea will hope to bounce back from their midweek defeat by Tottenham Hotspur when they host third-tier Peterborough on Sunday. —*Reuters*

Arsenal's Olivier Giroud. Photo: Reuters

Giroud strikes late winner as Arsenal sneak by Preston

LONDON — Olivier Giroud's scoring streak continued as he struck late to give Arsenal a 2-1 victory at Championship side Preston North End in the FA Cup third round on Saturday.

Giroud's deflected finish in the 89th minute was rough on Preston who had dominated the opening period after Callum Robinson had given them an early lead.

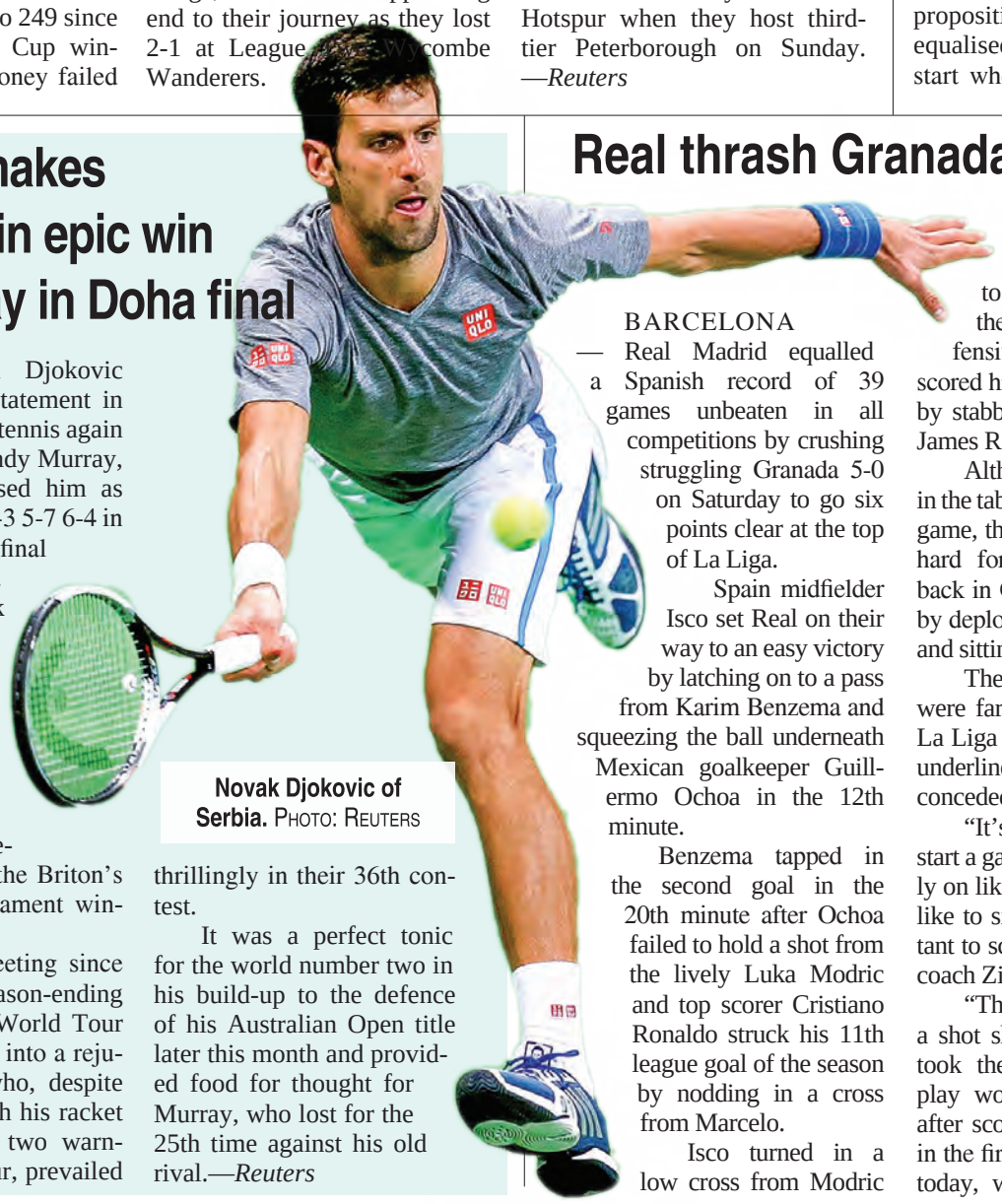
Arsenal were a different proposition after the break and equalised a minute after the restart when Ramsey fired home from the edge of the area after Alex Iwobi's lay-off.

The hosts looked capable of holding out for a replay but Giroud struck for the fourth match in a row when he capitalised on a clever back heel by Lucas Perez.

Preston were left to rue missed chances before the break, the best of which saw Jordan Hugill somehow fail to connect with a Robinson cross with the goal gaping.

Robinson also had a goal ruled out for an infringement.—*Reuters*

Djokovic makes statement in epic win over Murray in Doha final



Novak Djokovic of Serbia. Photo: Reuters

DOHA — Novak Djokovic made an immense statement in his bid to rule men's tennis again when he defeated Andy Murray, the man who deposed him as world number one, 6-3 5-7 6-4 in an epic Qatar Open final in Doha on Saturday.

Looking back to near his peerless best at times in a game of searing quality, the Serbian missed out on three match points and had to repel a roaring Murray comeback before ending the Briton's 28-match, five-tournament winning streak.

In their first meeting since Murray won their season-ending climax at the ATP World Tour finals, the Briton ran into a rejuvenated Djokovic who, despite having problems with his racket hand and receiving two warnings for his behaviour, prevailed thrillingly in their 36th contest.

It was a perfect tonic for the world number two in his build-up to the defence of his Australian Open title later this month and provided food for thought for Murray, who lost for the 25th time against his old rival.—*Reuters*

Real thrash Granada to equal record; Griezmann ends goal drought

BARCELONA — Real Madrid equalled a Spanish record of 39 games unbeaten in all competitions by crushing struggling Granada 5-0 on Saturday to go six points clear at the top of La Liga.

Spain midfielder Isco set Real on their way to an easy victory by latching on to a pass from Karim Benzema and squeezing the ball underneath Mexican goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa in the 12th minute.

Benzema tapped in the second goal in the 20th minute after Ochoa failed to hold a shot from the lively Luka Modric and top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo struck his 11th league goal of the season by nodding in a cross from Marcelo.

Isco turned in a low cross from Modric to stretch Real's lead in the 31st minute and defensive midfielder Casemiro scored his first goal of the season by stabbing in a free kick from James Rodriguez in the 58th.

Although Granada are 19th in the table and have won just one game, the Andalusians made life hard for champions Barcelona back in October, losing only 1-0 by deploying a five-man defence and sitting deep.

Their efforts to contain Real were far less successful and the La Liga leaders' dominance was underlined by the fact that they conceded only one shot on target.

"It's much easier when you start a game by scoring goals early on like we did today. Granada like to sit back so it was important to score when we did," Real coach Zinedine Zidane said.

"The fact they barely had a shot shows how seriously we took the game. You normally play worse in the second half after scoring three or four goals in the first but that didn't happen today, we respected our opponents."

Real top the standings on 40 points from 16 games, although Barcelona, who have also played 16, can close the gap when they visit Villarreal on Sunday.

Also on Saturday, Antoine Griezmann scored his first league goal in more than three months as Atletico Madrid won 2-0 at Eibar to provisionally go fourth in the standings.

The France international ended his La Liga goal drought by gliding forward to the edge of the area and playing a pass with compatriot Kevin Gameiro before blasting into the net in the 74th minute.

Saul Niguez had broken the deadlock on a freezing cold pitch in the 54th minute by glancing in a Filipe Luis cross following a short corner routine.

Atletico withstood plenty of pressure from the home side after netting the first goal and sealed the points with Griezmann's first league strike since he scored against Valencia on 2 October.—*Reuters*

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."